(b) the specific reasons for excluding Orissa from establishment of an IIM in the past, as well as during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Historically, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have been established in different parts of the Country on the demand of academia, industry and public in general.

(b) One Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has been allotted to the State of Orissa during Eleventh Five Year Plan, hence it was not considered for establishment of an IIM during this Plan.

**Decrease in drop-out rate**

4018. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has brought down the school drop-out rate in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the percentage of reduction reported in the backward regions of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa, district-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the breakup of funds earmarked and utilized to enhance the component of school drop-out rate during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The dropout rate has fallen by 15.23 percentage points at primary level between 2001 upto 2005, compared to a decline of only 2.3 percentage points between the years 1990 and 2000. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the reduction was 18.55 percentage points, for Tamil Nadu 27.24 percentage points and Orissa 0.88 percentage points between 2000 & 2005.

The main schemes being implemented to reduce drop out rates are the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Mid-day Meal Scheme, which have been provided with Central budgetary support of Rs. 13100 crore and Rs. 8000 crore respectively in 2008-09.

**Suicides due to examination stress**

4019. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the alarmingly increasing number of suicides among students at the school level due to examination stress and because of fear of failure;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take any steps to deal with this serious situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Reports on cases of students committing suicide have appeared in newspapers from time to time.